United Nations A/C.1/57/PV.18

General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

First Committee
18th meeting
Tuesday, 22 October 2002, 10 a.m.
New York

Chairman: Mr. Kiwanuka ..... (Uganda)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda items 57, 58, and 60 to 73 (*continued*)

Action on all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chairman: This morning the Committee, in accordance with its programme of work and timetable, will continue with the third phase of its work namely: action on all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under agenda item 57, 58, and 60 to 73. The Committee will continue to take action on draft resolutions that appear in informal working paper No. 2, which was been distributed at the previous meeting.

Before we start, may I ask the Committee's agreement that in order to efficiently proceed with third phase of its work, the Committee first takes action on all consensus draft resolutions contained in each Cluster prior to taking action on the other draft resolution that require a recorded vote. I hear no objection, it is so decided.

In regard to general statements, before the Committee proceeds to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in Cluster II, namely: "Other weapons of mass destruction", I shall give the floor to delegations wishing to make a general statement other than explanation of vote, or to introduce revised draft resolutions.

Does anybody wish to take the floor? I see none. Now we shall proceed on action on draft resolutions.

The Committee will now proceed to take decisions on those draft resolutions that are contained in Cluster II, namely, "Other weapons of mass destruction".

Before doing so, I will call upon those delegations wishing to explain their position or vote on the draft resolutions. There are none.

The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.5.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.5, submitted under agenda item 58, is entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Belarus at the 12th meeting on 15 October 2002. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/57/L.5, as well as in A/C.1/57/INF/2. In addition, the following country has also become a cosponsor of the draft resolution: Indonesia.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.5 was adopted.

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02-65336 (E)

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.9. A recorded vote has been requested.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.9, submitted under agenda item 66 on general and complete disarmament, is entitled "Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol". It was introduced by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries at the 16th meeting, on 18 October.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Israel, United States of America.

Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.9 was adopted by 140 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegations of El Salvador and Zambia informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Chairman: I call on those delegations wishing to explain their vote or position on the draft resolution just adopted.

Mr. Lew Kwang-chul (Republic of Korea): My delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.9, entitled "Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol". This is a departure from our previous position of abstention. My delegation is pleased to state that the Republic of Korea withdrew its reservations with respect to biological weapons in the Protocol, although, owing to the security situation on the Korean peninsula, my Government maintains its reservations regarding chemical weapons.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft decision A/C.1/57/L.22.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): Draft decision A/C.1/57/L.22, submitted under agenda item 72, is entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction". The draft decision was introduced by the representative of Hungary at the 14th meeting, on 17 October.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft decision have expressed the wish that the draft decision be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft decision A/C.1/57/L.22 was adopted.

The Chairman: I call on those delegations wishing to explain their vote or position on the draft decision just adopted.

Mr. Benítez Versón (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): For two consecutive years, and for reasons well known to all, the First Committee has had to adopt procedural

decisions regarding the Biological Weapons Convention, which is so important to us all.

My delegation would have preferred that this time around we might have managed to adopt a substantive decision that would reaffirm the commitment of all States to strengthening the Convention and to the importance of a successful outcome to the Review Conference to begin on 11 November 2002. Adoption of that procedural decision must not be interpreted as a lessening of the basic importance that a vast majority of States attaches to a strengthened Biological Weapons Convention.

Cuba fully intends to contribute to ensuring that the upcoming Review Conference represents a step forward in that process. To that end, it would be a basic prerequisite that all States parties to the Convention display clear political determination to achieve real progress. We hope that that is how it will be.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.48.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.48, submitted under agenda item 66 on general and complete disarmament, is entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Poland at the 15th meeting, on 17 October 2002. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/57/L.48.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee decides to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.48 was adopted.

The Chairman: I give the floor to the representative of Israel, who wishes to make a statement in explanation of position.

Mr. Bar (Israel): Israel signed the Chemical Weapons Convention and participated actively in the Preparatory Commission in order to shape the Convention into a workable mechanism. By signing the Convention, Israel reflected its moral vision and commitment to a world free of chemical weapons.

Unfortunately, while Israel signed the Convention in January 1993, other countries in the region, including those that have used chemical weapons in the past, or are believed to be working to improve their chemical capabilities, have failed to follow suit and have indicated that their position would remain unchanged even if Israel ratified the Convention.

The issue of Israel's ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention is strongly linked to our unique geopolitical environment. As Israel clearly stated at the signing ceremony in 1993, its decision regarding the ratification of the Convention would be subject primarily to regional considerations, including the security climate in the Middle East.

Since the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the threat of chemical warfare against Israel's population has not diminished and remains no less valid today. In fact, overall regional security concerns have actually increased.

We wish to reaffirm Israel's view that positive changes in the security climate in the Middle East will be the major consideration for Israel's reading of the issue of ratification.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take decisions on those draft resolutions contained in cluster 3, namely "Outer space (disarmament aspects)".

I call on the representative of the Russian Federation, who wishes to make a statement in explanation of vote on A/C.1/57/L.30, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

Mr. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I should like to explain our vote on the various items covered in this cluster.

The conquest of outer space is one of the important achievements in the history of humankind. The possibilities offered by the use of space discoveries and technology for development are truly limitless. Today there are no offensive weapons in outer space, but there are plans in existence to place them in Earth orbit. The potential threat of such a turn of events could become a reality if we fail to muster the political will to prevent the weaponization of outer space and its transformation into a new forum for military rivalry and conflict.

We believe that this matter that should have priority on the disarmament agenda. Regrettably, current norms of international space law do not fully cover the possibility of the weaponization of outer space.

Russia and China, in co-sponsorship with a group of other States, recently spoke at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and put forward a new initiative on this matter presenting, for general consideration, a joint draft document on potential elements of an international legal agreement on the prevention of the emplacement of weapons in outer space and on the use of force, or the threat of the use of the force, against space objects. This document is to a large extent based on ideas contained in the draft resolution that is being voted on today by the General Assembly. It has been distributed as an official document of the current session of the General Assembly.

At the fifty-sixth session of the Assembly, Russia put forward a proposal that even before an agreement on this issue is achieved, a moratorium should be introduced on the emplacement of military equipment in outer space. Our country is prepared to enter into such an agreement provided that the leading space States accede to that moratorium.

At the beginning of October, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Mr. Ivanov, stated that our country was prepared to embark on new measures promoting openness and confidence-building with respect to outer space. These would involve the timely submission of information on forthcoming launches of space objects, their purposes and their basic parametres. I should like to take this opportunity to call on all interested countries to join in this confidence-building measure in outer space.

The broad support that exists for the prevention an arms race in outer space has been confirmed by the results of the voting on this draft resolution at recent sessions of the General Assembly. It is our hope that the adoption of the draft resolution at this session of the Assembly will give fresh impetus to substantive discussions on military and space issues at the Conference on Disarmament.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.30.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.30, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Egypt at the 12th meeting, on 15 October 2002. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/57/L.30, as well as in document A/C.1/57/INF/2.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Israel, United States of America.

Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.30 was adopted by 151 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The Chairman: I call on the representative of Denmark, who wishes to speak on behalf of the European Union in explanation of vote on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Nielsen (Denmark): On behalf of the European Union, I am honoured to speak on the draft resolution just adopted in document A/C.1/57/L.30, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — and the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, as well as the countries of the European Economic Area members of the European Free Trade Association — Iceland and Norway — align themselves with this explanation of vote.

The European Union voted in favour of the draft resolution on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, but in order to avoid any misunderstanding, we deem it necessary to clarify the rationale of our vote.

We want to reiterate that the Conference on Disarmament is the only international multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament. Therefore, it is within the Conference that any decision should be taken regarding work on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The European Union stands ready to support the establishment of a subsidiary body of the Conference on Disarmament to deal with this matter on the basis of a mandate that will be subject to an agreement by all.

We furthermore wish to recall that the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a non-discriminatory and universal treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices constitutes a priority for the European Union.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take decisions on those draft resolutions that are contained in cluster 4, "Conventional weapons".

I call on the representative of Israel.

Mr. Bar (Israel): This is a general statement on cluster 4 on conventional weapons.

History offers us several important lessons with respect to conventional arms. Armaments in and of themselves do not pose threats to the extent that they are not used for hostile purposes. It is, rather, the poisonous combination of extensive armaments and hostile intentions that poses a genuine strategic threat. Israel therefore believes that the best antidote to the threat of armaments is the creation of an environment of confidence and trust.

States must bear in mind that the need for armaments is a direct response to a given situation. Building trust and confidence in the region will necessarily reduce the need for armaments. When nations live together in a spirit of peace and good-neighbourliness, it will be possible to reduce armaments and to increase transparency.

At the same time, it is important that arms controls and restraints be instituted in a way that will create the proper balance between legitimate security needs and preventing unnecessary human suffering and loss of innocent life. That loss results from irresponsible policies with respect to conventional arms proliferation.

The history of warfare is one in which tremendous civilian casualties have resulted solely from the use of conventional weapons. Conventional weapons in the hands of terrorists or countries that support terrorists can have a clear strategic impact. It is for this reason that my Government views the irresponsible use or transfer of conventional arms as a serious threat to regional and global security and stability. The consequences of the spread of these weapons — or worse, their acquisition by terrorists or criminal elements — invariably results in the loss of innocent life.

Israel believes that the humanitarian dimension of this problem must remain foremost in our minds and serve to guide our deliberations on this matter. Israel believes that the best way to curb illicit arms proliferation throughout the world is through strong national commitment and determination. It is our view that States bear the primary responsibility for ensuring that no weapons are transferred from their territory without proper oversight. States must undertake adequate marking and recording procedures of all weapons, stringent export controls and appropriate domestic legislation to prevent the misuse and proliferation of arms.

One important way to reduce tensions is through confidence-building measures. Their objective is to enhance States' sense of security and to reduce threats and tensions. In considering such steps, however, we must bear in mind the specific nature of conflicts, circumstances and threats in different regions.

In our region, despite the continuing threat and the lack of basic trust between nations, Israel decided to take action for the purpose of building confidence and reducing the humanitarian impact of conventional arms. One step is aimed at increasing transparency in armaments. Although we believe that, in principle, the success of transparency is contingent upon the normalization of political and military relations among regional States, Israel has taken it upon itself to participate in the United Nations Register. Currently, Israel is the only country in the region that regularly reports to the Register and we hope that other countries will join us in participating in this instrument with a view towards its universal application.

Israel also shares the concern of the international community about the humanitarian cost of the irresponsible use and transfer of small arms and light weapons and has taken steps to curb their proliferation. Israel actively participated in the July 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and calls on all States to implement the provisions of the Programme of Action. Israel's national legislation with regard to export controls and marking and record-keeping reflects its commitment to implementing that important document.

Israel attaches particular importance to action aimed at preventing and minimizing human suffering resulting from the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines. Israel believes that an integral component of the effort to address this threat is cooperation. Cooperative initiatives in the areas of mine clearance, mine awareness and victim rehabilitation are of tremendous importance and contribute greatly to efforts aimed at alleviating the humanitarian problem associated with mines.

Israel has taken a number of unilateral steps, as well, including ceasing all production of anti-personnel landmines, declaring a moratorium on the export of all types of anti-personnel mines and ratifying the amended Protocol II annexed to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Israel hopes that other nations in the region will join with it in establishing cooperative mechanisms aimed at reducing this threat, preferably within the context of a comprehensive regional peace. It is our view that the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons is a good example of how States can act to restrain the use of arms, while not causing harm to their vital national security interests.

Israel is participating in the current deliberations aimed at finding the proper balance between the legitimate security needs of States and our moral imperative to reduce human suffering. Although Israel shares the humanitarian objectives of the Ottawa Convention, due to regional circumstances and the continuing threat of terrorism, it cannot commit itself to a total ban on the use of anti-personnel landmines. However, we have taken part in several international initiatives aimed at promoting mine awareness and support for the victims of those terrible weapons.

South Lebanon provides an illuminating example of both the challenges and the opportunities Israel is facing with respect to anti-personnel mines. Even following Israel's full compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978), the area along the blue line continues to be a source of great danger and instability due to the ongoing crossborder violations by the terrorist organization Hizbullah. At the same time, despite a clear and present security threat, Israel has taken steps in cooperation with the United Nations forces in the area to help protect civilians from the danger of landmines. Israel has provided the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon with all information in its possession regarding the location and types of known landmines, as well as information regarding suspected locations of landmines, and continues to cooperate with the United Nations forces in that regard.

Since the start of deliberations this year here in the First Committee, we have witnessed numerous acts of terrorism against innocent civilians that underscore the humanitarian impact of the irresponsible use and transfer of conventional arms. Only yesterday, Palestinian terrorists blew up a public bus in northern Israel, killing 14 civilians and injuring more than 40 others. We repeat our call upon our neighbours to cease all support for the perpetrators of such crimes, including by supplying them with weapons and explosives. After all, terrorism is only viable if countries allow and even support its fortification through weapons transfers. The loss of innocent life is always painful. Terrorism does not distinguish among

its victims. All of us are threatened by this phenomenon. And all of us have a responsibility to stop it. We therefore hope that the international community will focus its efforts on ensuring the compliance of States with their international obligations. The fundamental commitment of States to resolve disputes peacefully, to cease support for terrorism and to live peacefully within secure boundaries can lay the foundation for a future disarmament of conventional arms.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.25. I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.25, submitted under agenda item 66, "General and complete disarmament", entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mali at the 16th meeting, on 18 October. Sponsors of the draft resolution are contained in document A/C.1/57/L.25, as well as in document A/C.1/57/INF/2. In addition, the following country has also become a co-sponsor of the draft resolution: Slovenia.

The Chairman: The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.25 have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.25 was adopted.

The Chairman: I now call on those delegations wishing to explain their vote or position on the draft resolution just adopted.

Mr. Assaf (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation has joined the consensus on the draft resolution that we have just adopted out of its conviction of the need to curb the illicit trade in small arms. However, I regret that while dealing with this item, we have listened to the representative of Israel, who attempted to politicize this issue and to enter into matters that are not directly or politically related to the issue. In that context, the representative of Israel seemed to regret the mines planted in South Lebanon. Everyone knows that those mines were planted by Israel — 450,000 mines in southern Lebanon. Israel is the country that planted them, as was recognized by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. We listened to the representative of Israel, who follows the example of a man who kills and then attends his victim's funeral. We regret that the representative of Israel is dealing with political issues that are not directly related to this draft resolution. We wish he had not done that.

The Chairman: As no other delegation wishes to explain its vote or position on the draft resolution just adopted, the Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.33.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to the conduct the voting.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.33, submitted under agenda item 66, "General and complete disarmament", entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Japan at the 13th meeting, on 16 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are contained in document A/C.1/57/L.33, as well as in document A/C.1/57/INF/2. In addition, the following country has also become a co-sponsor of the draft resolution: Mongolia.

The Chairman: The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.33 have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.33 was adopted.

The Chairman: I now give the floor to the representative of Djibouti, who wishes to explain his delegation's position after the decision has been taken.

Mr. Ali (Djibouti): I believe that Djibouti was a sponsor of this draft resolution, but I do not see our name on the list of sponsors. Therefore, I wish Djibouti's name to be added.

The Chairman: I have taken note of this request.

Is there any other delegation that wishes to explain its position after the decision has been taken? I see none.

The Committee will now proceed to take a decision on those draft resolutions that are contained in cluster 5, namely, regional disarmament and security.

Before doing so, I shall call upon those delegations wishing to explain their position or vote on the draft resolution before the voting.

Does any delegation wish to take the floor? I see none.

The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.39.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee, who will conduct the voting.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.39, submitted under agenda item 66, general and complete disarmament, entitled "regional disarmament".

This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the 14th meeting, on 17 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are contained in document A/C.1/57/L.39, as well as in document A/C.1/57/INF/2. The following country has also become a sponsor of the draft resolution: Saudi Arabia.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.39 was adopted.

The Chairman: I shall now call upon those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of position or vote after the decision has been taken.

Does any delegation wish to explain its vote or position? I see none.

The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.41.

A recorded vote has been requested.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.41, submitted under agenda item 66, general and complete disarmament, entitled "conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels". This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Pakistan at the 13th meeting, on 16 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are contained in document A/C.1/57/L.41, as well as in document A/C.1/57/INF/2.

The Committee will now proceed to take action on the draft resolution.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against:

India.

Abstaining:

Bhutan.

Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.41 was adopted by 149 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

The Chairman: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote or position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Kumar (India): My delegation has taken the floor in order to explain why we could not vote in favour of the draft resolution. There exist, since 1993, guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security, which were adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission on the basis of consensus. Therefore, we feel that the rationale or the need to consider formulation of principles for a framework for regional arrangements is not persuasive.

India is not convinced of the productive value of calling on the Conference on Disarmament, a forum for negotiation of disarmament of global application, to consider principles for a framework of regional arrangements on conventional arms control. Further, India's security concerns are not confined to what is referred to here as "South Asia".

This being the case, the narrow definition of the resolution does not truly reflect the security concerns in South Asia and adopts an approach that is far too restrictive. Therefore, we could not vote for the resolution.

Mr. Meléndez-Barahona (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): As in previous years, we would like El Salvador to be included in the list of co-sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.1/57/L.48, L.30 and L.33.

The Chairman: I take note of the statement and request of the representative of El Salvador.

We have completed action on all the resolutions which had been slated for today.

Before adjourning the meeting, I would like to inform members that at it next meeting, the Committee will continue to take action on the draft resolutions as contained in Informal Working Paper No. 3, which has just been distributed.

The draft resolutions that the Committee will consider at its next meeting are as follows: in cluster 6, confidence-building measures, including transparency in armaments, A/C.1/57/L.37, entitled "Transparency in armaments", and A/C.1/57/L.54, entitled "Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements"; in cluster 7, disarmament machinery, A/C.1/57/L.6, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", A/C.1/57/L.13, entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament", A/C.1/57/L.29, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa", and A/C.1/57/L.38, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship training and advisory services"; and, in cluster 8, other disarmament measures, A/C.1/57/L.1, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", A/C.1/57/L.7/Rev.2, entitled "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education", A/C.1/57/L.12, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control", A/C.1/57/L.17, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development", A/C.1/57/L.20, entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme", and A/C.1/57/L.50, entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

The next meeting of the First Committee will be convened tomorrow, 23 October, at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 1.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.